Economic Update

July 2012

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Business Briefs

According to the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC) major projects inventory, almost half of all major project spending in Atlantic Canada is set to happen in Newfoundland and Labrador – $48.1 billion in 2012. It is an 11% increase over the same outlook last year. Actual investment in St. John's in 2012 is expected to reach $650 million. Outside of oil and mining projects, housing developments in the city are listed as a third "growth driver" for the provincial economy. In addition, St. John's is home to commercial developments including office buildings, new hotels, an airport expansion, a new long-term care centre, expansion to the St. John's Convention Centre and more.

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The St. John's rental market vacancy rate was 3.3% in April compared to 2% in April 2011, according to the CMHC Spring Rental Market Survey. The average two bedroom rent increased 7.1% to $808 in St. John's over the same period. The apartment availability rate was 3.8% in St. John's in April 2012 compared to 2.6% last year.

Newfoundland and Labrador led the provinces with the highest increase (6.5%) in average weekly earnings in the 12 months to April 2012. Nationally, average weekly earnings increased by 3.1% on a year-over-year basis. According to Statistics Canada, average weekly earnings in Newfoundland and Labrador were $931.77 in April 2012, the second highest wage level among the provinces after Alberta. In Alberta, average weekly earnings in the 12 months to April grew 3.5% to $1,066.83.

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Statoil recently announced that there are estimated to be 100 - 200 million barrels of recoverable reserves at the company's Mizzen discovery in the Flemish Pass Basin. In 2012 - 2013 the company plans to drill two to three exploration wells in nearby acreage.

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The Faculty of Science, Memorial University has added a new department. The Ocean Sciences Centre (OSC) status has changed from a research unit to an academic unit. Graduate and undergraduate academic programming is being developed for the new Department of Ocean Sciences.

City Building Permits (Jun 26, 2012)

Type	2011	2012	% Variance
Commercial	$21,800,500	$132,600,600	508
Industrial	1,500,600	3,600,100	140
Institutional	21,300,700	12,700,700	-40
Residential	100,300,800	87,700,700	-13
Repairs	2,200,300	2,300,500	5
Total	**$147,102,900**	**$238,902,600**	62

Economic Indicators

- **The New Housing Price Index for St. John's Metro was 146.6 in April 2012 down 0.3% compared to the same month in the previous year.**
- **The Consumer Price Index for St. John's Metro was 124.4 in May 2012 up 2.4% compared to the same month in the previous year.**

Labour Force Characteristics, St. John's Metro, *(seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average)*

	May 12	Chg.*
Labour Force	116,500	4.0%
Unemployment Rate	7.7%	1.9pt
Employment Rate	66.2%	0.5pt
Participation Rate	71.7%	2.0pt

** Same month previous year.*

Business Approvals

Player's Edge, 430 Main Rd.

Helping Matters, 71 Casey St.

Urchin Art, 197 Water St.

Nailed, 12 Gleneyre St.

Catering business, 10 Forbes St.

New Home Based Business

2XL Consulting, 512 Back Line

Mercer's Paving Inc., 91 Shoal Bay Rd.

Family home child care service, 205 Green Acre Dr.

Pre-kinder tutoring, 55 Jenmar Cres.

Digital photo restoration, 8 Green St.

Initiatives

Quidi Vidi Village Plantation Opens

The Quidi Vidi Village Plantation, supported in part by the City of St. John's and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, will serve as both a focal point for visitors wishing to explore Quidi Vidi Village and a Craft Incubator for local artisans who will occupy its 10 purpose-built studio spaces. In addition to the studio spaces, the 4,600 square foot centre will also have office/archives for the Quidi Vidi Village Foundation, a visitor information desk, office and public washrooms.

Each of the craftspeople who lease studios in the Plantation have passed through a rigorous selection process. We welcome the public to come and watch the various artists work and to support them by purchasing some of their fine craft items.

For further information visit: www.quidividivillageplantation.com

Upcoming Events

Apply to CBC's *The Big Decision*	July	www.cbc.ca/thebigdecision
Music at Harbourside Park	Fridays in Jul	www.stjohns.ca
Wreckhouse Jazz & Blues Festival	Jul 4 – 7	wreckhousejazzandblues.com
Self-Employment Assistance program on-line information session	Jul 10	www.nlowe.org
Sound Symposium XVI	Jul 9 – 15	soundsymposium.com
Calling all NL Entrepreneurs! Startup Canada Town Hall Session	Jul 17	e-mail: brittany@nati.net
Dairy Farmers of Canada	Jul 17 – 18	www.dairyfarmers.ca
George Street Festival	Jul 26 – 31	www.georgestreetlive.ca
Downtown St. John's Buskers Festival	Aug 3 – 5	downtownstjohns.com
Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival	Aug 3 – 5	www.nlfolk.com/folkfestival.html

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